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BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

May 2008

Nisan – Iyar 5768
Vol. 14 Issue 5

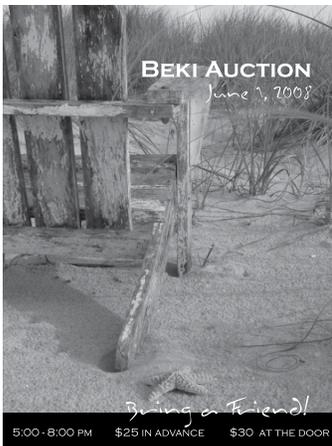
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BIDDING FOR BEKI



On Sunday, June 1, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., BEKI will hold a party with live and silent auctions, cocktails, gourmet hors d'oeuvres and desserts — and plenty of fun. The theme of this year's auction is caring for the environment, and everyone will go home with a reusable tote bag, emblazoned with the BEKI logo and the names of our wonderful sponsors.

There are a variety of goods and services available this year.

Among the items generously donated by BEKI members and friends: a get-away weekend at a beautiful vacation home in Vermont, an afternoon's sail on Long Island Sound (with Tina Rose), a private tour of the Grove Street Cemetery (with docent Daniel Lovins), home-baked hallahs by Judi Jannette, and a hallah-baking lesson with Helene Sapadin, a behind-the-scenes visit to Yale's incomparable Babylonian collection (with scholar Bill Hallo), hand-crafted jewelry, massages, and much more.

And we have a special offering you can bid on this year: three

private parties, each featuring a BEKI celebrity speaker and gourmet food. Groups are encouraged to bid on these together.

- Marcia Landesman, associate director of admissions for Yale College, will speak at a brunch hosted by Elayne and Mort Dimenstein. She will talk about what elite colleges and universities are really looking for when they screen applications.
- BEKI President Jay Sokolow, radiologist and contest king, will be the featured guest at a dinner hosted by Rachel and Allen Sutin. Jay will explain how you, too, can enter contests and win prizes.
- Author Mark Oppenheimer will talk about contemporary Jewish fiction and its roots in the 20th century. Rachel and Steve Wizner will host that dinner.

Once again Bidding for BEKI will have a table with "white elephant" surprise gifts. These were a big hit last time, and will surely attract a lot of bids again.

Invitations (designed by Lynn Brotman) are in the mail. Mark your calendar and plan to come.

If you have something to donate to the auction (a new item, genuine antique, or service), please don't wait to be called. Contact Peggy in the BEKI office, or Auction Chair Elayne Dimenstein.

CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY AT BEKI

Come listen and learn about families like yours who are building a living Jewish legacy and supporting their community for the future. Rabbi Murray Levine will host an evening of dialogue and discussion on this important topic. Mike Silverberg

will present examples drawn from a range of Jewish families, showing how they have worked to help transmit their values through charitable giving from generation to generation. Come join fellow congregants at the home of Rabbi Murray Levine,

35 Knollwood Drive, in Westville, on June 3, at 7 p.m. Kosher wine and snacks will be served. There will not be any solicitations; this is a chance to listen and exchange in a comfortable setting. For information, contact John Weiser at 314-8600.

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The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

- Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: jjtilsen@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 25
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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A Message from President Jay Sokolow

Dear Religious School Parents and BEKI members:

Dorothy Bowser has decided not to return as principal next year, so that she can pursue other projects. She will continue through the end of the school year.

We are considering options for a successor and I will keep you informed as to our progress. Please email me at president@beki.org or call me at 387-6019 with any questions or suggestions you may have.

The centerpiece of a successful school is the children and their families. Thank you for the privilege of educating your children. BEKI will make sure that they continue to have the finest Religious School experience possible.

Brunch on Jewish Women in Recovery from Alcohol and Drug Abuse

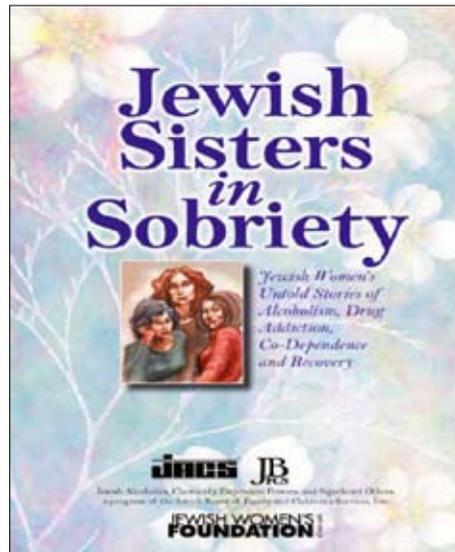
A community brunch on Sunday, May 4, at 9:45 a.m. will feature speakers who will share their inspiring personal stories of recovery from alcohol- and drug-dependency. The brunch will be held in the Downstairs Social Hall.

This event is open to all. No reservations are necessary. In addition to a thought-provoking talk, a delicious, hot brunch will be served.

The guest speakers represent a New York City-based organization called JACS: Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others, which is a program of the Jewish Board of Family And Children's Services, Inc. (JBFCS). JACS recently published *Jewish Sisters in Sobriety*, the first book ever about Jewish girls and women in recovery from alcoholism and substance abuse.

Jewish Sisters in Sobriety is a collection of passionate and compelling first-person accounts of what it is like to be an alcoholic or chemically-addicted Jewish woman—or the spouse, child or parent of one—and to have found sobriety and recovery. The book is an eye-opener for those in the Jewish community who find it difficult to accept that Jewish women have alcohol and substance abuse problems. In fact, one of the recurring themes of the book is that the shame of being an addict who is Jewish is a potent deterrent to seeking treatment.

Jewish Sisters in Sobriety was created by a volunteer editorial committee



composed of Jewish women alcoholics, addicts, co-dependents and “concerned civilians” with JBFCS’ Jewish Connections Director Jonathan Katz serving as advisor. Narratives in the book come from 21 individuals who all are in recovery through the 12-Step programs of A.A., N.A. (Narcotics Anonymous) or through Al-Anon, Alateen and Nar-Anon—combined with their involvement in JACS and, in some cases, professional treatment. They are single and married, gay and straight, childless and mothers. They are rich, poor, and middle class. Some have multiple addictions and mental health disorders. In terms of religious observance, they range from ultra-religious to non-affiliated, and everything in between.

“On a philosophical level, *Jewish*

Sisters in Sobriety is both a 12-Step book and a Jewish book,” said Audrey Waxman, a key member of the editorial committee. “In 12-Step terms, it represents the experience, strength and hope of the contributors and their commitment to carry the message to others. In keeping with Jewish tradition, it reflects the core values of tiquin olam (repairing the world), teshuva (repentance and return) and tzedaka (caring for others).”

Sylvie S., one of the speakers, is a former actress and a trained substance abuse counselor. She has devoted herself to philanthropic causes and helping others, focusing on programs concerned with battered women and children. For twelve years she ran a twelve-step program at Rikers Island, seven years on the men’s side and five on the women’s.

As a member of the JACS council, Sylvie oversees relationships with addiction facilities and serves as the Crisis Coordinator for the JACS hotline. She is reputedly a highly effective and popular community speaker and has represented JACS at UJA Federation agencies, the Jewish Institute of Pastoral Care, the Council of Mutual Support Groups at Hazelden in Minnesota and at Hebrew schools, Yeshivot, civic groups and women’s organizations.

Copies of the book will be available at the brunch. For more information, contact JACS at www.jacsweb.org or (212) 399-2685 x232.

FROM PESAH TO SHAVUOT

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second seder, we began daily *sefirat ha-omer* (counting of the *omer*), a counting of days to Shavuot, the next major festival. The counting, preferably done each night for 49 nights, is an expression of eager anticipation, commemorating the period of expectation and preparation we experienced in the Exodus from Egypt until the revelation at Sinai. Counting is the fulfillment of a *mitzva* specified in the Torah: “You shall count from the eve of the second day of Pesah, when an Omer of grain is to be brought as an offering, seven complete weeks. The day after the seventh week of your counting will make fifty days” (Lev. 23:15-16).

The simple home ceremony appears in *Sim Shalom* and most *siddurim* (prayer books) immediately after the weekday evening service. While it is a *mitzva* prescribed for adults, *sefirat ha-omer* can also be a fun, artistic and joyous ritual for families with children.

In the days before printed calendars, calendar watches and daily newspapers, the *sefira* served to keep the liturgical calendar of the Jewish People synchronized, no simple accomplishment given the dispersion and isolation of much of the community. The term *omer* refers to the measure (one handful) of grain that was used to create a physical relic of the counting. With a physical reminder, even illiterate people could do a recount in case they forgot the day’s number.

Families with young children may use this opportunity to help their children understand and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope.

Teach us to number our days, that
we may attain a heart of wisdom
— Psalm 90:12



LaG BeOmer Kumsitz

On Thursday, May 22, from 6:15 to 8 p.m., everyone is invited to a LaG BeOmer Kumsitz campfire sing-along. Please see the mid-month mailing for location and details.

Bring instruments and song sheets. In case of rain, the sing-along will be indoors at the same location (*sans* campfire).

LaG BeOmer is the thirty-third day of the counting of the Omer, the period between Passover and Shavuot, and marks the end of a semi-mourning period between the two festivals.

This music program is made possible through the support of the [Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment for Sacred Music](#) at BEKI.

Shavuot Two-Day Festival: The Jewish Hajj

The Festival of Shavuot (“Weeks”), one of the three major pilgrimage festivals, celebrates the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah at Sinai some 3,400 years ago. The word *hag* (pilgrimage festival) is known widely by its Arabic cognate, *hajj* (which, for Muslims, means pilgrimage to Mecca). The Torah commands, “Three times a year—on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Booths—all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place that He will choose. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each with his own gift, according to the blessing that the Lord your God has bestowed upon you” (Deut. 16:16-17).

Shavuot comes at the culmination of the counting of seven weeks from Pesah, and will be a major observance at BEKI this summer. Just as we look forward to important events in our personal lives, so too our ancestors enthusiastically and devoutly anticipated the event at Sinai. By participating in BEKI’s Shavuot observance, we re-enact the extraordinary experience of our ancestors and show our own enthusiasm for receiving Torah.

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

Our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Sweeter than Honey Night of Study will be on Sunday night, June 8. Dairy and pareve refreshments will be served. That means **cheesecake**.

The evening begins with the Minha Afternoon Service, from 8:15 to 8:25 p.m. The brief Festival Evening service, from 8:25 to 8:45, will be followed at 9 p.m. by



a presentation.

After another break for refreshments, exploration of Torah continues with another presentation. A late-night *shiur* by Moshe Meiri will begin sometime after 10:45 p.m. For more details, see next month's *Bulletin*.



Moshe Meiri

Shavuot Mornings *Yizkor Memorial Service*

The Shavuot First Day Festival Shaha-rit Morning Service begins at 9:15 a.m. on Monday, June 9. The service includes the full recitation of Hallel.

The Shavuot Second Day Morning service begins at 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10. The Festival service includes a *Shaharit* morning service, *Hallel* (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and *Haftara*. Following the *Haftara* (prophetic reading), the *Yizkor* Memorial Service is held. The

Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are sometimes especially intense during the Festival season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Following *Yizkor*, the Book of Ruth is read to a uniquely beautiful and ancient melody based on the same system of *ta`amei hamiqra* ("trope") found in most of the Hebrew Bible. Then the Festival *Musaf* additional service is recited.



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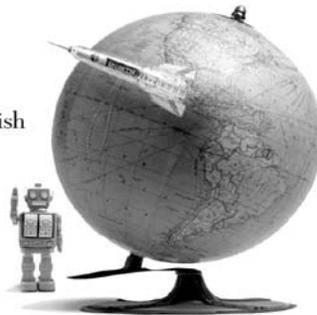
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HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

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Leo Hauptman

Sherwin Fischman,
father of Reyna (& David) Ottenstein

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Bat Mitzva

Mara Rothman, daughter of Stephen & Sheryl Rothman, will lead and participate in services, and will read and teach Scripture, as a bat mitzva on Shabbat Parashat BeHar, May 16-17. Mara is a graduate of the BEKI Religious School and of the Benei Mitzva Program.



Mara Rothman

Welcome New Members and Their Families

Jessica Zein & David Miller and Aubrie

Letters

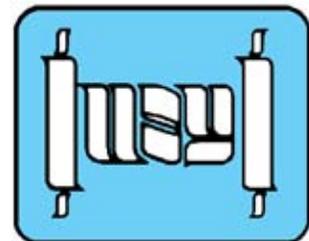
Thank you, BEKI community, for your contributions in honor of Alvin Sapadin. Your friendship and support nourished our souls. Your food nourished our bodies, and your donations keep the community strong. We are grateful to be part of this extraordinary community.

Sincerely, *The Sapadin Family*

Shabbaton

It's that time of year again. School is coming to a close, people are getting ready for the summer, and everyone is getting excited for BEKI/BJ USY's Annual Shabbaton. Every year Beki/BJ USY holds an infamous Shabbaton at Camp Laurelwood. The Shabbaton is the most popular event every year with a big number of enthusiastic attendees. Throughout the weekend you get to meet new people, learn about Judaism, have a bonfire, play sports in the fields outside, and so much more. All the programming is made by the BEKI/BJ USY board, which consists of highschoolers, so you know it's going to be fun and interesting. Don't forget to mark your calendars and tell friends about this year's Shabbaton which will be held from May 30 to June 1. See you there!

If you have any questions, contact Karen Sutin (karensutin@yahoo.com) or Daphne Lew at (isrligr1714@yahoo.com).



Daphne Lew and Annie Bass

Mazal Tov to

Annie Bass on her first-place prize in prose for her story "Plumber" in the Thornton Wilder Writing Competition 2008 (Hamden Library)

Daphne Lew on her first-place prize in poetry for her poem "June Baby" in the Thornton Wilder Writing Competition 2008 (Hamden Library)

Dr. Jennifer Botwick on opening her professional office at 1079 Whalley Ave., in the Creative Body Therapies Wellness Center, 387-5015

Alisa Zlotoff on her engagement to **Aaron Fine**



USY Volunteers at Soup Kitchen

Soup's On

On Sunday, March 16, ten USYers volunteered at the New Haven soup kitchen. The group helped set out food, cut pies and organize utensils for the customers. As a special treat for the diners, the USYers waited on them by serving their dinners at their tables rather than having them serve themselves. After the dining room was cleared, the group helped clean the tables and floors. By volunteering, not only did all the USYers perform a great mitzvah, but everyone enjoyed putting a smile on the faces of people in need. The customers were also extremely happy with the service and greatly enjoyed their meal. The event was a great success and

will definitely be repeated in the near future. — Maya Sutin, SATO VP

The Spirit of a USYer

Ruach, or spirit. That's what I love about USY. At the International Heschel Kinnus there was an overload of Ruach. People all across U.S. and Canada came to shout their lungs out at the best convention of the year. The AJ Heschel Honor Society is a group within USYers who go beyond the normal expectations and have a special commitment to Judaism. To be part of the Heschel Society a USYer must participate in Judaic study, religious services, and Social Action projects on a regular basis. Each year there is a special international convention where only members of

Heschel attend. The feeling of 70 Jewish teens chanting Ivdu Et HaShem B'Simcha (Serve God in Joy) is one that really makes me smile and uplifts the soul. A core group of USYers from all over came for this one amazing weekend to study, see old friends, and of course to sing and chant. Being at Heschel convention was definitely an amazing experience. There were some of the coolest people in USY there for one great weekend. I definitely encourage all USYers to partake in this, and other Heschel programs.

B'Shalom,

Yedidya Ben-Avie, BEKI-BJ USY Religion Education VP, Hanefesh Religion Education Regional General Board

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Robert E. Shure James M. Shure
Founder President

Shabbatot

Darshanim in May

Gila Reinstein will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat morning, May 3, *parashat* Qedoshim.

Rabbi Murray Levine will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning, May 10, *parashat* Emor.

Mara Rothman, *bat mitzva*, will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat morning, May 17, *parashat* BeHar.



Gila Reinstein

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in BEKI's Library Chapel, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation for the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.



Rabbi Murray Levine

New: Kulanu Discussion Group

Adults who may take part in the Kulanu Friendship Circle and the Saul's Circle outreach programs are invited to participate in a

Shabbat morning discussion group that will meet May 3 and May 24 from 10:45 to 11:30 with Dr. Lauren Kempton. For information, contact Lauren at 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30, adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. *shaharit* service. New participants are welcome.

Wednesdays

Rabbis' Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a "safe" setting and with opportunities to learn from each other's experience and insight. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30) at the downtown New Haven professional office of attorney Isaiah Cooper for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or icooper@cooperlaw.net.

SATO: Social Action – Tiquin Olam

Organizational Meetings: Wednesday, May 14, Group One, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Group Two 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

BEKI Social Action Committee will serve meals at the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK) on three upcoming Sundays. Please respond if you can help serve 4-6 p.m.

on Sunday May 4, Sunday July 6, or Sunday Aug. 3. Please respond to BEKI's DESK scheduler, Judy Hoberman, jdhoberman@aol.com or (h) 389-2378 or (w) 248-3191. We need exactly four to eight people on each of these dates. Gloves and hairnets will be provided and must be worn. Don't come if you don't feel well.

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund

(minimum \$25)

- Louis & Lisa Petrillo in memory of loved ones
- Elma Guttenberg for Mekhirat Hamets
- Morris & Gloria Cohen for Mekhirat Hamets
- Barbara Cushen for Mekhirat Hamets
- Jay & Lynn Brotman for Mekhirat Hamets
- Tamar Edelkind for Mekhirat Hamets
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of Marilyn Stern
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of William Karsif
- David & Rayna Belowsky for Mekhirat Hamets
- Blanche Sapadin in Appreciation
- The Sapadin Family in Appreciation
- Arthur & Betty Levy for Mekhirat Hamets
- William Berson & Deborah Ziskin for Mekhirat Hamets
- Evelyn Benson for Mekhirat Hamets
- Kal Watsky & Deborah Fried for Mekhirat Hamets
- Stephen & Rachel Wizner for Mekhirat Hamets
- Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman for Mekhirat Hamets
- Morton & Elayne Dimenstein for Mekhirat Hamets
- Gerald & Judith Oppenheim in appreciation to Donna Levine and Rabbi Tilsen
- Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce for Mekhirat Hamets
- Edward & Carol Anne Kravitz for Mekhirat Hamets
- Lawrence & Rachel Schonberger in Appreciation to the BEKI community
- For Mekhirat Hamets: Tina Rose, Mimi & Ephrem Glenn, Joanne Foodim & Robert Forbes, Dennis & Barbara Rader, Gila Reinstein; Jonathan & Barbara Shevis Family, Bryna Pauker, Howard & Willa Needler, Daniel & Sharon Prober, Alan & Sally Abramovitz,

Howard Gralla & Linda Schultz, Phil & Linda Bleich, Robert Silverman, Paula Hyman & Stan Rosenbaum, Shoshana Zax & John Weiser, Rabbi Lina Zerbarini, Marsha Beller, Charles & Violet Ludwig, Leon Cummings, Harold & Bobby Miller, Morton & Muriel Chorney

Qiddush Sponsors

(minimum \$250)

- The Sokolow Silverman family
- The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven
- Rabbi Murray Levine
- Nanette Stahl & Bill Hallo
- The Corinne Blackmer & Pilar Stewart family

Chai Fund (minimum \$18) to support synagogue operations

- To the Beki Community with thanks for the Purim basket by Hillel & Sara-Ann Auerbach
- To Helene Sapadin with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Sapadin by Selma & Jerome Schussler and Debra & Mark Dresner
- For selling of hametz by Caryl & Michael Kligfeld
- In honor of Mara Benjamin, Miryam Kabakov & Rayzie Benjamin by Ossie & Harry Hanauer
- To Mr. Philip Snow & family with sympathy on the passing of Arnel Snow by Al (Uncle Sonny) & Marge Barnett
- To Mr. Philip Snow & family with sympathy on the passing of Arnel Snow by Caroline Barnett
- To Terri Stern with sympathy on the passing of Marilyn Stern by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To Terri Stern with sympathy on the passing of Marilyn Stern by Sybil Richards & Hans Massaquoi
- To Helen Sapadin with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Sapadin by Sybil Richards & Hans Massaquoi
- To Stanley Saxe in honor of his milestone birthday by Shirley Stephson

- To David Kuperstock with thanks for his hard work delivering Purim baskets by Anna Goldberg
- To Terri Stern with sympathy on the passing of Marilyn Stern by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To BEKI with thanks for the Purim basket by Sarah Goldstein

Rabbi Andrew Klein Scholarship Fund

- Rabbi Murray Levine

Hesed Committee

- To Stan Saxe in honor of his milestone birthday by David Wright
- To Terri Stern with sympathy on the passing of Marilyn Stern by Gila Reinstein

Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library for purchase of children's books

- In memory of her mother Estelle Romanoff by Donna & Sid Levine
- In memory of his father Morris Levine by Sid & Donna Levine

Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

- To Mrs. Leonard Churgin & family with sympathy on the passing of Leonard Churgin by Shirley Mattler & Debra Levine

Synagogue Fund (minimum \$10) to support synagogue operations

- To Dorothea Braginsky with wishes for a complete & speedy recovery by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Mr. & Mrs. Harris Aaronson & family with sympathy on the passing of Brenda Caryl Aaronson by Marjorie Simson
- To BEKI with thanks for the Purim basket by Harriet Meisel

Yahrzeit Fund (\$5 minimum) to support synagogue operations

- In memory of Anita Palmer by John & Marsha Reynolds
- In memory of Sylvia Matloff by Harriet & Jack Kitavitz

Supporting American and Allied Jewish Soldiers

The Religious School at BEKI has been supporting *Operation Far From Home* for three years. *Operation Far From Home* is a project established to communicate to our Jewish troops that they are not forgotten in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain. The location of our troops and our Jewish history is strongly connected. The city of Ur, in Iraq, is where Abraham Avenu came from. Living in this environment many Jewish troops seek each other out to share their traditions and strengthen their Jewish identity.

In the past, we have made and sent groggers, Rosh Hashanah cards, Judaic items and letters. Most of the items are donated, but for Passover there was a huge expense for kosher meat for the troops this year. If you would like to help pay for future donations of tallit, kosher supplies,

etc., please make out a check to “Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel” and mail it to: Operation Far From Home, P.O. Box 8892, New Haven, CT 06532.

Operation Far From Home is run by Linda and Phil Bleich. If you would like to learn more, please visit their website at operationfarfromhome.com or email them at contact@operationfarfromhome.com. The wish-list for donations includes CD’s, DVD’s and books with Jewish content, deodorants, travel size shampoo, disposable razors, kipot, long scarves, decks of cards, small packs of tissues, shabbos candles, tea lights, menorahs, soaps regular and travel size, and books of sudoku puzzles. There will be a box in the foyer for donations.

Thank you so much,
Lauren Kempton

A Letter from a Soldier

My name is Scott Leonard and I am an Australian Army Officer serving here in Iraq on the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I). I am also Jewish and my time here has been made bearable by the camaraderie generated by Jews far from home and the overwhelming support of the wider Jewish community.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to your congregation for keeping us in their thoughts and a particular thank you to the children that worked so hard on the wonderful Purim drawings we received. Please let Marlee know that her work will be coming home with me to Australia next month.

Shalom, Scott Leonard, Major, Australian Army

Contributions (continued)

- In memory of her parents Rose & Louis Katz by Sharon & Daniel Prober
- In memory of Helen Lettick by Robert & Janice Lettick
- In memory of our dear father & grandfather Harry Spiegel by Howard, Arlene & Harry Gold
- In memory of Shirley Rudof by Stephen Rudof
- In memory of her uncle Morris “Moishe” Schnitman by Helene Vanderhoef Schnitman & Edward Vanderhoef
- In memory of Matthew Lettick by Robert & Janice Lettick
- In memory of Lillian Gell by John & Marcia Gell
- In memory of Moe Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Kate Rochlin by Kranie &

- Earl Baker
- In memory of Lillian Chorney by Muriel & Morton Chorney
- In memory of Bess Flamer by Muriel & Morton Chorney
- In memory of Lillian Silverman by Robert Silverman
- In memory of Lilyan Goodwin by Stacey Goodwin Podell & Jeffrey Podell
- In memory of Celia Ross by Doris & Stephen Brody
- In memory of Sam Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Samuel Herschderfer by Sherman & David Herschderfer
- In memory of Bennett Schultz by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Charles Byer by Barbara & Larry Tiven
- In memory of Edith Winess Lynch by

Sylvia Winess

- In memory of Minnie Abramowitz by Joseph Alper
- In memory of Kitty Greenberg by Irving Greenberg
- In memory of Helen C. Greenberg by Irene Greenberg
- In memory of Ronet Zeehandelaar by the van Creveld & Ben-Avie family
- In memory of her mother Toby Blatt by Marilyn Margolis
- In memory of Paul Wolfson by Steven Wolfson & Elsa Stone
- In memory of Max Jack Gad by Martin & Lana Gad
- In memory of Harriet Winer by Herbert & Hannah Winer
- In memory of Sherwin Brotman by Jay & Lynn Brotman

In April we sponsored the Annual Model Seder for People with Special Needs with the food donated by ACI Catering and Jewish Family Services helping with coordinating transportation. Led by co-president Ruthie Greenblatt with lots of eager participation a pleasant evening was enjoyed by our guests.

Please patronize our Gift Shop. We have lots of new merchandise for weddings, bridal showers and Bar & Bat Mitzvah teens. Earnings from the shop support the synagogue, so shop where your dollar counts the most!

Adele Tyson, Ruthie Greenblatt
Co-Presidents



Torah Fund

Card for all occasions are only a phone call away. Save gas and call me at 407-0314. Your card will be mailed promptly

for you and it's only \$4, which includes the stamp!

Support The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) and its schools just by purchasing a card — what could be nicer.

Barbara Cushen, Torah Fund Chair

Get Well to:

- Diana Friedman Opton from the Hesed Committee
- George Posener from the Hesed Committee
- Mort Silver from the Hesed Committee
- Violet Ludwig from the Hesed Committee, Shirley Mattler, Deborah Levine
- Charlie Ludwig from the Hesed Committee
- Elayne Dimenstein from the Hesed Committee

Mazel Tov to:

- Murray Levine on his milestone birthday from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Stanley Saxe on his milestone birthday from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Robert Kasowitz on his milestone birthday from Ruth & Morris Olmer
- Estelle Horwitz on her birthday from Stanley Saxe & Barbara Cushen

- Milton Kasowitz in his milestone birthday from Stanley Saxe & Barbara Cushen

Thank you to:

- Herbert Etkind from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Judith Janette from Violet & Charlie Ludwig

In Memory of:

- Mildred Weiner to Rebecca Weiner from the Hesed Committee & the Lew family
- Sarah Klein to Jennifer Klein from the Hesed Committee
- Al Sapadin to Helene Sapadin from the Hesed Committee & Adele Tyson
- Marilyn Stern to Terri Stern from the Hesed Committee & the Lew family
- William Karsif to Brian Karsif from the Hesed Committee
- Ruth Most from Helen Miller
- Morris Levy to the Levy family from Mikki Ratner
- Harold Gaynor to Sandy Gaynor from Adele Tyson
- Doris Horton to Robert Horton & family from Adele Tyson
- Fred Ticotsky to the Rubino-Ticotsky family from Adele Tyson
- Her mother, Charlotte, to Janis Isenberg from Adele Tyson

News

New: Defibrillator

A portable defibrillator is now in service at the synagogue. This emergency medical device can provide life-saving impulses to treat life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia. It is mounted in an alarmed box in the entryway to the handicapped washroom and nursing room just off the main lobby and its location is marked by a plac-

ard in the lobby. This gift of life has been provided through the generosity of Dr. Ron Zlotoff and Donna Kemper.

On Sunday mornings this summer, Dr. Steven Wolfson will meet with staff and volunteers to introduce the device and teach how to use it correctly. Interested members are welcome to attend; please contact the office for more information.

Qiddush Honoring Class of 5768

A consortium will be sponsoring a “High School Grad Qiddush” on Shabbat morning, June 21, honoring the class of 5768 (2008). This is on Shabbat *parashat* Shelah Lekha, which translates, roughly, as “Send Away for Your Own Sake!” If you would like to join in sponsorship, or honor a graduate from this class, please send a contribution in an amount of your choice, made to “Congregation BEKI” with a note designating “Grad Kid” to the BEKI office by June 1 to insure your sponsorship and graduate will be included

Leave a Legacy

Dear Donna,

I know you’ve been pushing this “Leave a Legacy” idea, that everyone should leave something to charity in their will. I don’t disagree, but I’ve already signed my will and it was such a big project to get done that I really don’t want to have to redo it. I don’t have life insurance or retirement accounts on which I can name BEKI as the beneficiary. I keep putting off dealing with this; is there an easy way for me to “Leave a Legacy”?

Sincerely,

Estate Plan Complete

Dear Estate Plan Complete:

If you are willing to share a copy of your will with me, and tell me the amount or percentage of your estate you would like to leave to BEKI, I would be pleased to prepare a codicil adding the necessary language to your will at no charge. Wouldn’t it be nice if every BEKI member did this? Please contact me at 985-9033 or sdsij@aol.com, or you can send me a fax at 985-1574. Please just *do it!*

Sincerely,

Donna Levine

Purim Roundup

Thanks you for your support again this year for the Purim Basket project. You made it a very successful fundraiser and community builder, and helped many people fulfill and enjoy the mitzvot of Purim. Special thanks to the Purim Basket deliverers — blessings on your heads!

Kol tuv, Ina Silverman

Children’s Library News

Thanks to a generous donation to the Ari Nathan Levine Fund, the book “The Bedtime Sh’m’a: A Good Night Book” has been added to the ANL Collection.

Camp Ramah Alumni Reunion, May 23-25

Alumni of Camp Ramah in New England, Camp Ramah in Glen Spey and Camp Ramah in Connecticut are invited to spend Memorial Day weekend at the Palmer, Mass., camp reminiscing about your days as campers and reconnecting with old friends.

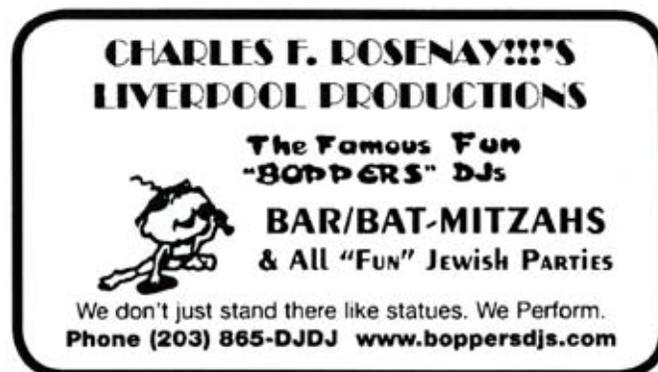
Attendees will enjoy a traditional Ramah Shabbat with a scholar-in-residence, sports, a Saturday night party, hikes and more. Childcare for children ages 2+ will be available.

A base fee of \$200 per adult and \$100 per child includes cabin accommodations, kosher meals and all programs. Optional housing upgrades are available. More information, including registration materials can be found on the Camp Ramah in New England website, www.camprahamne.org or call (781) 449-7090 ext. 225

Reunion Committee: Stu Rosenthal ‘84; Illana Katz Margolis ‘87; Susan Silverman ‘93; Hirsh Kravitz ‘96; Sara Shapiro-Plevan ‘88; and Debbie Eisenkraft Rolan ‘87.

Friendly Face?

If you might like to serve as a “Greeter” on a Shabbat or Festival morning, to welcome guests, direct visitors, and assist those with special needs, please contact Ritual Committee Chairperson Steven Fraade at 397-9430 or steven.fraade@yale.edu, or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.



SOYLENT GAS

In other countries, the citizenry riots when bread prices rise. In these United States, it is the price of motor fuel (gasoline and diesel) that incites the masses. Now that the per gallon gas price is approaching that of milk, numerous schemes have been suggested or partially implemented to address what some would have us believe is the greatest calamity of our day.

One government-subsidized boondoggle is the plan to turn our food into gas. This, even though it takes almost as much fossil fuel to grow and convert the crops as is produced at the end of the process. This, even though it drives up global food prices and endangers the lives of many millions who live at a bare subsistence level. We may as well turn their bodies directly into gasoline to fuel our guzzlers. It's not considered cannibalism unless you eat them.

A second plan is to reduce state and federal taxes on petroleum, on the theory that doing so would provide

immediate relief to consumers. Unfortunately, this plan would simply shift the tax burden to some other vehicle and undoubtedly to the same people (us). The tax reduction would soon be lost in higher demand, higher prices and higher profit margins.

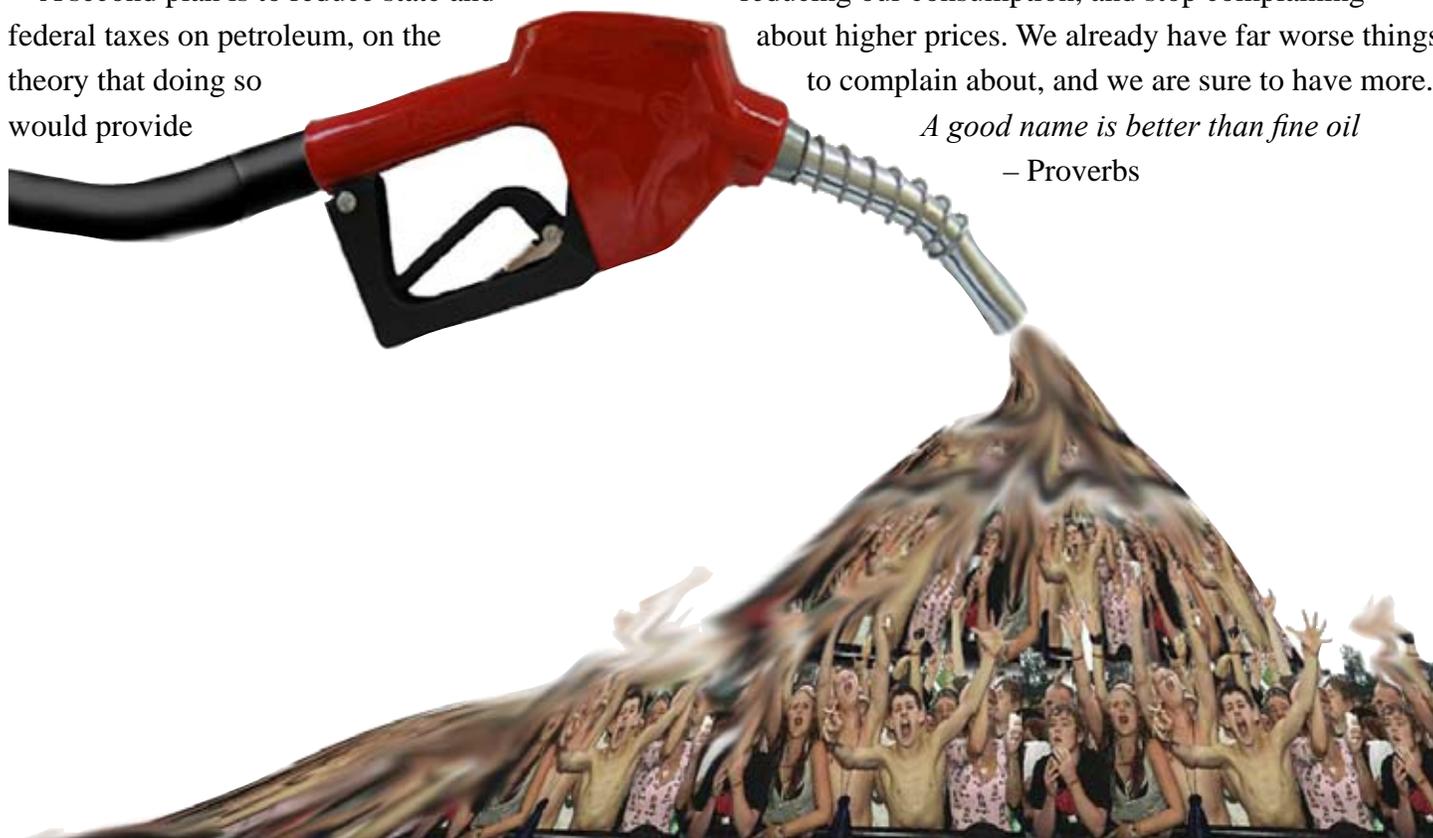
As it is, gasoline is highly government-subsidized. Uncountable billions are expended to provide access to public lands, build transportation systems such as highways, cover pollution-induced medical and productivity costs, and insure security for international shipping. If consumers paid the real cost of gasoline, prices would double, and we'd be better off for it. We pay either way — through federal taxes or at the pump.

That's my take on the issue, and now you see why I can never run for public office.

What can we do? Prepare for higher prices by reducing our consumption, and stop complaining about higher prices. We already have far worse things to complain about, and we are sure to have more.

A good name is better than fine oil

– Proverbs



May 2008

26 Nisan 5768 - 26 Iyar 5768

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 Yom Hashoah 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 26 Nisan/11 L'Omer	2 7:33pm Candle Lighting 27 Nisan/12 L'Omer	3 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Kulanu Discussion Group Qiddush: Dimenstein 28 Nisan/13 L'Omer
4 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Talmud with Moshe 9:45am Brunch with guest speakers: Jewish Women in Recovery from Alcohol & Drug Abuse representing JACS 29 Nisan/14 L'Omer	5 Rosh Hodesh I 7:45am Rashi Study Group 30 Nisan/15 L'Omer	6 Rosh Hodesh II 1 Iyar/16 L'Omer	7 Yom Hazikaron 9:30am NHBOR 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 2 Iyar/17 L'Omer	8 Yom Ha'Atzmaut 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 3 Iyar/18 L'Omer	9 7:40pm Candle Lighting 4 Iyar/19 L'Omer	10 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Cheskis-Gold & Minsky-Fenick 5 Iyar/20 L'Omer
11 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Talmud with Moshe 6 Iyar/21 L'Omer	12 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7 Iyar/22 L'Omer	13 8 Iyar/23 L'Omer	14 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 8:30am SATO #1 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 6:30pm SATO #2 9 Iyar/24 L'Omer	15 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 10 Iyar/25 L'Omer	16 6:00pm Mara Rothman Bat Mitzva 7:47pm Candle Lighting 11 Iyar/26 L'Omer	17 Mara Rothman Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Rothman 12 Iyar/27 L'Omer
18 9:00am Religious School/Graduation 9:30am Talmud with Moshe 13 Iyar/28 L'Omer	19 Pesach Sheini 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting 14 Iyar/29 L'Omer	20 15 Iyar/30 L'Omer	21 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 16 Iyar/31 L'Omer	22 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 6:15pm LaG BeOmer Kumsitz (off-site) 17 Iyar/32 L'Omer	23 LaG B'Omer 7:54pm Candle Lighting 18 Iyar/33 L'Omer	24 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan 10:45am Kulanu Discussion Group Qiddush: Ludwig & TBA 19 Iyar/34 L'Omer
25 20 Iyar/35 L'Omer	26 Office Closed/Memorial Day 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group 21 Iyar/36 L'Omer	27 7:30pm General Board Meeting 22 Iyar/37 L'Omer	28 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 23 Iyar/38 L'Omer	29 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 24 Iyar/39 L'Omer	30 7:59pm Candle Lighting 25 Iyar/40 L'Omer	31 Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Levine 26 Iyar/41 L'Omer

Service Times for Spring / Summer

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	8:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 6 p.m. Minha-Maariv	9:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 Minha